



Lemuel Harlow and his brother Jonathan bought a small lot, less than a half acre, on the new road along the shore, "the road leading from Powder Point to the Nook." Ship builders and ship masters were beginning to build in this new village part of town, but Lemuel and Jonathan had nothing to do with the sea. They were cordwainers or shoe makers, and evidently prosperous ones, for the house Lemuel built was in every way equal to those around it.

The Harlow House is a large, two story square house, substantial and well designed, and for the next 40 odd years housed a large family, parents and 10 children.

The room arrangement followed the usual plan of front rooms either side the hall and a

big kitchen across the rear, flanked by bedroom and buttry. When the growing family required more room, an ell was moved on for a summer kitchen, and this ell was a complete, though small house, older than the one it was added to. It has a complete kitchen with big fireplace and a small stairway leading to a tiny second floor room under the eaves. So it was an older house that enlarged the newer one on the new highway.

The interior wood work is plain, wide floor boards, wainscots, and fireplace panels and there were good substantial details throughout. It was a more pretentious home than most shoemakers had and that points to a business rather than a one man job. Lemuel is thought to have had a small shoe shop, or

factory, in a building to the rear of the house, a good sized plain building that was later moved off to become a house on another street.

The Harlows lived here for 48 years until 1852 when Deborah Harlow, widow, sold to Captain Joshua Drew. Both Joshua and his wife Miranda were related to many of their neighbors and for the next 42 years they were a part of the sea-faring neighborhood. It was 1894 when finally the old house went to a summer family.

Over the years and different owners many changes and alterations have been made, so many that the interior has lost its original four square look, yet the fine framing and many paned windows keep their charm. New England houses often have a "spite" story and there is such a story here, but it concerns a summer owner.

The story goes that a man and his wife and his mother came to live here. Then as the matriarch was starting for Europe she let it be known that on her return she expected to have the north corner first floor room. While she was away the stairway was moved farther back in the house and the 2 front rooms were opened for hall space, making the whole front of the house one big room. When the dowager returned there was no north front room as she expected and she had to adjust to another.

During the long ownership of this last family, the house fell into such disrepair that it was not attractive for a home. Prospective buyers considered making it a bakery, a furniture store, or a doughnut shop, all plans so frightening to a man nearby that he bought it to save it, later selling it to a resident family. So again there was attention for the house.

When the present owners restored it, scrapings of the many paint layers showed that a very early date it had been a gray-blue, so that color was chosen and once more the house is in good repair. It stands among the other fine old village homes, much as it was when Lemuel Harlow built in 1804. The Rev. and Mrs. Theodore F. Jones own and occupy the Harlow House.

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